



Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department

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News Release

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS RECOGNIZES LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR APPREHENDING, CONVICTING TAGGERS OF
LARGEST KNOWN TAG IN THE UNITED STATES**

On Thursday, October 8, 2009, the United States Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District recognized the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for their efforts in the apprehension and conviction of taggers who vandalized more than seventeen miles of the Los Angeles River Flood Control Channel. Commander Dan Finkelstein, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Colonel Thomas Magness; United States Army Corps of Engineers, Councilman Ed Reyes; Los Angeles City, Councilman Jose Huizar; Los Angeles City, and Senior Advisor Kim Tachiki-chi; for Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, were all present at the Graffiti Removal Recognition Ceremony that took place at the 6th Street entrance to the Los Angeles River. After the ceremony, elected officials, the Army Corps of Engineers and graffiti abatement contractor BJD Resourcing, began to cover the graffiti along the downtown area of the Los Angeles River, starting with the "MTA" tag.

The taggers were from the Metro Transit Assassins (MTA), crew which is comprised of 60 members. This crew has painted one of the largest roller bombs (using paint rollers) in the United States and costing the Metro Transit Authority almost \$30,000 dollars in damages. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's investigation into the MTA crew took five months to identify crew members. In early January of 2009, Transit Services personnel served a multi-location Search Warrant of eleven locations on MTA crew members. Twelve of the most active members were arrested and thirteen search warrants were served.